

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/2007

SPONSOR Altamirano LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE WNMU Web-Based Criminal Justice Programs SB 137

ANALYST McOlash

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$375.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 137 appropriates \$375,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University for expenditure in FY 2008 to establish and maintain web-based criminal justice programs.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$375,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The WNMU Criminal Justice Program offers students the opportunity to prepare for careers in law enforcement and corrections. The program has been expanded to offer a Bachelor's Degree for working police officers and a potential Border Patrol Agents at the federal level. The University targets New Mexico students, but is bringing in transfer students from Arizona and

Texas. The Criminal Justice Program offered six online courses for the first time last fall, and began with more than 20 students enrolled in those courses. Based on the demand, the program estimates future enrollment of up to 100 students within a very short time.

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by WNMU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and was not included in the HED's funding recommendation for FY08.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The Higher Education Department indicates that program planning is essential to prepare for accelerated growth in a controlled manner, with critical funding in place.

BM/nt